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STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
465 S. KING STREET, #103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

e-mail: Hawaii.PUC@hawaii.gov

September 3, 2008

William A. Bonnet
Vice President, Government and Community Affairs
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 2750
Honolulu, Hawaii 96840-0001

Cheryl S. Kikuta
Utilities Administrator
Division of Consumer Advocacy
P.O. Box 541
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

David C. Coker, Esq.
Gayle B. Chestnut, Esq.
Associate Counsel (Code 09C)
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3134

Re: Docket No. 2008-0083 - Application of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. for Approval of Rate Increases and Revised Rate Schedules and Rules

Dear Parties:

For your information and review, enclosed please find copies of public comments and correspondence received by the commission in the above-referenced docket.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 586-2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kaiulani Kidani Shinsato".

Kaiulani Kidani Shinsato
Commission Counsel

KKS:cp

Enclosures

- c: Thomas W. Williams, Jr., Esq. and Peter Y. Kikuta, Esq. (w/enclosures)
Dean K. Matsuura (w/enclosures)
Dr. Kay Davoodi (w/enclosures)

2008-0083

Robert S. Hines
555 University Avenue, 3500
Honolulu, HI 96826-5046
(808) 941-3445

FILED
2008 AUG 28 A 11:38
PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

29 August 2008

Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street, #103
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Public Utilities Commission Members

I received the letter from Robbie Alm, Executive Vice President, Public Affairs, Hawaiian Electric Company, regarding the proposal to raise current rates by 5.2%. Because Hawaii now has the dubious honor of having the highest electric rates in our nation, I must ask the following question:

Why did not the Hawaiian Electric Company's Board of Directors anticipate the necessity over the years for upkeep and change in the current system as well as Oahu's future needs for electricity for its expanding housing and businesses?

It appears that management of the HEC was and continues to be neglectful and incompetent in its responsibilities to the residents of our great state. I am doing my best to cut down on the use of electricity and living like I did as a child in the 1930 and 1940s. Undoubtedly, the maintenance on my condo will go up, too. Like all retirees, I have limitations financially—as do all residents of the State of Hawaii. Do I move away?

Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings on this matter.

Aloha

Robert S. Hines

Robert S. Hines



"Beaermom"
<steve.pang1@vesgmaill.net>

To <Hawaii.PUC@hawaii.gov>

cc

08/29/2008 12:17 PM

bcc

Subject HECO reauquest for Increase in 2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

I received from HECO a letter explaining their request for a 5.2% increase in rates in 2009. They blame the rising cost of fuel and add that HECO does only passes on the actual cost of fuel. Their role is to provide reliable electric service and maintain a strong electric system. They pass all improvement and maintenance costs on to the customer and report increased earnings and profits every year. Even in tough years they expect the consumer to bear the burden, rather than being able to have planned for the ups and downs in the marketplace (i.e., instead of putting all the profits in their pockets, putting some aside for the down years - like most people have to do to get by). The capital improvements and upgrades listed should be part of the short and long range strategic planning at any good business and utility company...not a list of projects that will justify rate increases. HECO should also provide a list of strategies for improving budgetary efficiencies as well. They also describe the average customer as using 600 KWH per month to downplay the actual increases that consumers will see. Thank you for allowing me to state my concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. S. Pang
2910 Kalawao Street
Honolulu, HI 96822



Andrew Huey
<andrewhuey@hotmail.com>
08/28/2008 11:12 AM

To <hawaii.puc@hawaii.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject Complaint against Gas Co. and Electric Co. Rate hikes

Please deny the request for the Gas Company's Rate hike. I have seen the price of propane go thru the roof and it is hurting. While this may be beyond some of your control, a \$127.44 average yearly increase to my bill (in addition to fuel costs!) is ridiculous and not warranted. This is a huge amount of money (over 4 million dollars +) they are asking for when you add up all the consumers in the state. Also I do not have any other choices to have on site service for propane. The Gas company is the only one on Maui and I am at their mercy. Already my fuel charge has doubled + so please don't raise the rates.

And as for Electricity, the rates are killing consumers and businesses. The cost of electricity is obscene and it is beginning to break the average family budget. It is beginning to have a snowball effect within the economic standing of the average resident. These costs need to decrease and although I agree Oil prices can partly be blamed, please consider everything you can to lower our electricity rates. Many families on the mainland are not faced with these high costs every month and don't suffer the consequences of high electricity. It is having an adverse impact to the consumer. When I use the 2nd lowest amount of energy for one month over a year and had the 2nd highest monthly bill of the year, something is awefully wrong.

Thank You for your consideration.

Andrew Huey
Maui

See what people are saying about Windows Live. Check out featured posts.
http://www.windowslive.com/connect?ocid=TXT_TAGLM_WL_connect2_082008

Net. 2008-0083

1426 Akupa St.
Kailua, HI 96734
August 22, 2008

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street, #103
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Commission:

This letter relates to Hawaiian Electric's request for a 5.2% increase in electric rates in 2009, which will be reviewed by the Commission and State Consumer Advocate. While Hawaiian Electric acknowledges that consumers are trying to cope with rising fuel prices, which has a significant impact on electricity charges, I am not convinced that Hawaiian Electric has taken the necessary steps to ensure operating efficiencies other than passing on these costs to consumers.

Hawaii's electricity rates are recognized as the highest in the nation, and I understand that we experience circumstances not characteristic of the mainland because of our isolated location. However, it is apparent that our electricity bills and rates over the past eight years have increased significantly above the cost price index over the same period. Yes, the price of oil has had a great impact recently, but over the past month oil prices have also dropped dramatically with no indication of any relief in Hawaiian Electric's billing. I have taken steps to reduce electricity usage. For example, my daily July electricity usage was less than the previous month, yet the "cost of energy" charged by Hawaiian Electric was greater than the previous month. If Hawaiian Electric, as it maintains, "does not add a profit on fuel costs," shouldn't the "cost of energy" in my July billing have been lower?

Although the salary and benefits of Hawaiian Electric's senior officials may not be a matter under the purview of the Commission, shouldn't that be a consideration in your review as well? Salaries and benefits are a cost of operations, and it wouldn't surprise me if substantial increases were provided to these officials in 2008. My question is have these officials taken the necessary steps to ensure that excess in operating costs are eliminated and that productivity is improved to minimize the impact of costs to consumers?

I realize that my comments may be emotional, but after having installed mostly compact fluorescent bulbs and reduced the use of air conditioning, I have nothing left but emotion. Thank you for the opportunity of expressing my views, and I trust the commission and Consumer Advocate will do the right thing regarding the requested increase.

Sincerely,


HERBERT DAUBER

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2008 AUG 25 A 11:56
PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

Nkt 2008-0083

Dorothy A. Wilde
444 Lunalilo Home Road, #227
Honolulu, HI 96825

August 22, 2008

The Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street #103
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Commissioners;

Enclosed is a sample of material that represents a regular accompaniment with each monthly electric bill. Most of this information is general knowledge, offered by the news media, and on our public interest television.

If the costs for preparing and printing and mailing this material were eliminated, perhaps there would be less of a need to increase rates.

I suggest that this needless and annoying junk mail be eliminated to reduce expenses of HECO and the savings be used for maintenance and operation expenses.

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. Wilde

PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

2008 AUG 25 A 11:58

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Cool tips for saving energy

Summertime is here, and many of us are looking for ways to keep cool without using a lot of electricity. Keeping the heat outside, avoiding heat-generating activities inside, and maximizing ventilation can help keep your home cool.

Avoid heat buildup:

- Landscape your lot to shade your house, especially on the sunny east, west, and south sides.
- If you replace your roof, use a light-colored material to help reflect heat.
- When painting the outside of your house, use lighter tones that help to reflect rather than absorb heat.
- Install insulation (R-19 or greater) in your attic or install a radiant barrier with an emissivity of 0.05 or less to keep the sun's heat from radiating into your living area.
- Apply window film with a shading coefficient of 0.40 or less.
- Consider installing new windows with a solar heat gain coefficient of 0.40 or less.
- Block direct sunlight by installing awnings or closing window shades and curtains.
- Avoid using the oven. Cook on the stovetop, use a microwave oven, or grill outdoors.
- Avoid using appliances that generate a lot of heat, such as the drying cycle on your dishwasher.
- Switch to compact fluorescent lights, which emit less heat.



Maximize ventilation:

- Take advantage of natural ventilation by letting the trade winds enter windward windows and drawing warm air out of leeward or upper windows and operable skylights.
- Install window fans in windows facing away from the prevailing wind to exhaust hot air from your home.
- Use circulating fans to create a wind chill effect that will make you more comfortable. Ceiling fans are considered the most effective. If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with the same comfort level.
- Keep your attic cooler by venting out the hot air. Install a vented ridge cap, wind-powered exhaust turbine, or an attic fan—such as a solar-powered fan—to reduce your attic's temperature.
- Use spot ventilation to remove the heat while cooking (oven hood vent), while bathing (bathroom vent), and while running the clothes dryer (dryer vent).

